

Remarks

Claims 34-37, 39-51 and 53-59 remain in this application. Claim 34 is amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 38, now cancelled and further to remove indefiniteness. Claims 35 and 42 are amended to claim the correct step from claim 34. Claim 47 is amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 52, now cancelled.

I. Rejection Under 35 §USC 112

Claims 34-46 are rejected under 35 §USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

It is pointed out within the Office Action that claim 34 contains two steps labeled "(d)". Applicant has amended claim 34 such that the second occurrence of (d) and (e) and (f) are relabeled as (e), (f) and (g), respectively. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection Under 35 §USC 103

Claims 34-37, 40-51 and 54-59 are rejected under 35 §USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawhon (US 4,420,425).

It is stated within the Office Action, that claims 38 and 39 and claims 52-53 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 34 is amended to include the limitation of claim 38 and claim 47 is amended to include the limitation of claim 52. Claims 34 and 47 are amended to show that the ultrafiltration is conducted using an ultrafiltration membrane having a molecular weight cutoff of up to 30,000 to provide a retentate.

Lawhon does not disclose or teach the particular molecular cutoff for the ultrafiltration membrane as called for in claims 34 and 47. Lawhon teaches away from this particular ultrafiltration molecular cutoff called for in amended claims 34 and 47. It would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the

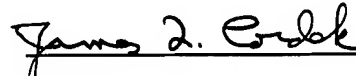
ultrafiltration molecular weight cutoff as called for in the instant claims since Lawhon restricts doing so. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the foregoing comprises a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and subsequent allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0421.

Respectfully submitted,
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